

## CLAIMS

1. Method for transcoding a N bits word into a M bits word,  $N > M$ , characterized in that it comprises the following steps :

- 5                   - breaking down the N bits word into an exponent part and a mantissa part having each a size which varies according to the value of said N bits word, the size of the mantissa part increasing with the value of said N bits word, and
- 10                   - encoding the exponent part of the N bits word into a variable number of bits A and removing, if need be, least significant bits of the mantissa part in order to obtain a mantissa with a variable number of bits B, with  $A+B=M$ .

2. Device for transcoding a N bits word into a M bits word,  $N > M$ , characterized it comprises

- 15                   - means for breaking down the N bits word into an exponent part and a mantissa part having each a size which varies according to the value of said N bits word, the size of the mantissa part increasing with the value of said N bits word, and
- 20                   - means for encoding the exponent part of the N bits word into a variable number of bits A and removing, if need be, least significant bits of the mantissa part in order to obtain a mantissa with a variable number of bits B, with  $A+B=M$ .

25                   3. Plasma display panel comprising a degamma means (80) for applying a degamma function to video input data ( $Y[9:0]$ ) and delivering N bits data and a mapping memory (100) for remapping M bits data, with  $N>M$  characterized in that it comprises a transcoding device according to claim 2.